



***Identifying and Developing Talent and Potential in  
All Learners Every Day -  
An Introduction to Gifted Education***

**Day:** Tuesday, November 17, 2009  
**Session:** 3:15 – 4:30 pm  
**Room:** Aztec C

**Presenter:**

**Peter Laing** – [Peter.Laing@azed.gov](mailto:Peter.Laing@azed.gov)  
Director of Gifted Education/Advanced Placement  
Arizona Department of Education

**Session Description:**

Gifted and advanced learners have unique academic, social, and emotional needs. Here you will learn how to identify talent and potential through the learning and behavioral characteristics of gifted learners (particularly those students who are culturally, linguistically, and socioeconomically diverse), how those characteristics manifest themselves in the classroom, and how to use performance-based assessments, authentic challenging and engaging instructional activities, and other data sources, to assist in developing holistic profiles of learner needs so that appropriate differentiation of instruction, programs, and services may be effectively implemented.

**Presenter Information:**

**Peter Laing** currently serves as the Director of Gifted Education/ Advanced Placement for the Arizona Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department, Peter most recently served as Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator for Project Bright Horizon, a four-year U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits gifted education research and demonstration grant, focused on designing effective systems and methods for identifying and developing talent and potential in culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse learners. Peter currently serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for the Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented (AAGT), Chair of the Special Populations Network and as a member of the Legislative Guideline Committee of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), and is a founding Co-Chair of the new Gifted and Advanced Learners Network of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).